GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1502
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004
HANDING OVER OF AMGURI GAS FIELD
Chaliha Shri Kirip

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government has handed over Amguri Gas field in Assam to a Canadian Firm;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons;

(c) Whether Government is aware of large scale agitations by people all over the State against this decision;

(d) Whether the Government intends to review its decision in this regard in view of public protest and anticipated unrest; and

(e) if so, details thereof, and if not reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) and (b) : A consortium comprising M/s. Assam Company Ltd. & M/s. Joshi Technology Limited signed a production sharing contract with the Government of India on 23rd February, 2001, for Amguri field in Assam under the second round of offers for the development of small-sized discovered fields. Consequent upon approval by the Government in 2004 of the proposal for change of Operator and assignment of Participating Interest in the Amguri field, the revised Participating Interest in the field are M/s. Canoro Resources Limited (60%) along with Operatorship, and M/s. Assam Company Limited (40%). The field was handed over to M/s. Canoro Resources Limited by the Assam asset of ONGC on the 29th October, 2004 in accordance with terms and conditions of the PSC.

(c) to (e) : Government have received certain representations against handing over of the field to the consortium led by a foreign company. Since there is a legal contract between the Government and the consortium and the field has been handed over to the consortium after grant of the Petroleum Mining Lease by the Assam Government, it may not be appropriate to renege from the contract, especially when the Government is making efforts to attract investment for exploration of oil and gas to enhance the energy security of the country in keeping with the Energy Security Sector of the National Common Minimum Programme.